

Request for Economic Stimulus Funds

Concept Proposal

Submitters (Name of Workgroup & Chair/Co-Chairs): WKU/ Roger Scott, Dr. Keith Andrew (STEM – Dr. Lee Todd)

Project Title: Planetarium as STEM recruiting tool.

Project Partners (Known or Anticipated): WKU, Dr. Keith Andrew, Roger Scott,

Project Background & Purpose (Justification for Project): Hardin Planetarium at WKU serves as an important astronomy and space science outreach facility for WKU to the south central region of the Commonwealth. The planetarium serves four segments of Kentucky's population: WKU students, visiting P-12 students, P-12 teachers, and the general public. More than 523,000 people from all walks of life have visited Hardin Planetarium since it opened in 1967. Upgrades are desperately needed to continue to serve constituents and to enhance recruiting efforts to attract more students into science and mathematics disciplines. The requested upgrades would broaden the scope of science and mathematics disciplines that could be represented and greatly increase student recruitment and educate the general public in the STEM disciplines. Instead of the globe-like projector a digital imaging system is to be installed which will give that planetarium an IMAX quality projection. Such an imaging system can be used to present exciting shows in biology, chemistry and other disciplines in addition to astronomy.

Project Description (General Goals & Implementation Strategies):

The goal is to broaden and improve the imaging system in the Hardin Planetarium to attract a broader audience for introduction or enhancement of the students' and publics awareness of and knowledge in the STEM disciplines. The implementation is simply installation of a new projection and sound system.

Project Team (Project Manager(s), Content Experts, Instructional Designers, etc.):

Roger Scott (planetarium director), Dr. Keith Andrew (Dept. of Physics and Astronomy), Facilities management and Spitz , Inc.

Project Budget & Amount of Economic Stimulus Funds Requested:

The projector, sound system and installation (stimulus package)	\$1,500,000
---	-------------